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Contact: Rose Lynch (608) 266-6753

Web Audio: http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/2006/unemployment/multimedia/may06_state_lmi_061506.mp3

MAY UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

Lowest rate since May, 2001

Unadjusted Data

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that Wisconsin's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped five-tenths of a percentage point in May to 4.5 percent, which is the lowest unemployment rate for the month of May since 2001. The number of Wisconsin employed grew by 18,100 over the month and the number unemployed decreased by 14,300. The drop in May's unemployment rate was expected due to an expanding job market and more jobseekers seeking seasonal opportunities.

The state's labor force has grown by 33,400 participants compared to May 2005 with 33,800 more employed and 400 fewer unemployed. The current rate is one-tenth of a percentage point lower than May 2005.

"Strong job growth and lower unemployment in May indicate that the state's job market remains healthy overall, while some pockets of the state continue to require our attention," Secretary Gassman said.

May's preliminary nonfarm wage and salary estimates showed a monthly net increase of 27,000 jobs, with 2,882,700 total jobs in Wisconsin. Most of Wisconsin's major employment sectors measured job growth between April and May with leisure and hospitality and construction posting the largest monthly gains with 9,000 and 7,600 more jobs, respectively. Manufacturing gained 800 jobs. Government was the only major sector to show a monthly decrease in employment.

Wisconsin is estimated to have a total of 28,500 more nonfarm jobs than in May 2005. Educational services; healthcare and social assistance; and leisure and hospitality employment registered the state's largest job gains with each sector having about 7,000 more jobs compared to May 2005. Two of the state's goods-producing sectors, construction and manufacturing, also have annual higher employment. Manufacturing employment increased by 1,000 jobs and the construction sector reported 5,500 additional jobs. Annual employment decreases were measured in some sectors with the more declines in retail trade (-1,200 jobs); government (-1,200 jobs); and transportation, warehousing and utilities (-1,600 jobs).

Adjusted Data

Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the month of May was 4.7 percent. May's rate is one-tenth of a percentage point lower than April and unchanged compared to May 2005. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.6 percent in May; also one-tenth of a percentage point lower than April's rate and five-tenths lower compared to May 2005.

May employment and unemployment figures for individual counties will be available June 21, 2006. This release also is available at <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/>.

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WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
In Thousands

ITEM	NET CHANGE FROM				
	PRELIM. MAY 06	FINAL APR 06	YEAR AGO MAY 05	MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO
PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES				
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3058.7	3054.9	3025.3	3.8	33.4
UNEMPLOYMENT	138.0	152.3	138.4	-14.3	-0.4
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.5	5.0	4.6	-0.5	-0.1
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2920.7	2902.6	2886.9	18.1	33.8
PLACE OF WORK DATA					
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2882.7	2855.7	2854.2	27.0	28.5
TOTAL PRIVATE	2460.2	2431.2	2430.5	29.0	29.7
GOODS PRODUCING	646.5	637.6	639.8	8.9	6.7
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4.3	3.8	4.1	0.5	0.2
CONSTRUCTION	138.7	131.1	133.2	7.6	5.5
MANUFACTURING	503.5	502.7	502.5	0.8	1.0
Durable Goods	317.3	317.2	316.8	0.1	0.5
Nondurable Goods	186.2	185.5	185.7	0.7	0.5
SERVICE PRODUCING	2236.2	2218.1	2214.4	18.1	21.8
TRADE	431.6	427.9	431.5	3.7	0.1
Wholesale Trade	118.8	117.8	117.5	1.0	1.3
Retail Trade	312.8	310.1	314	2.7	-1.2
TRANS., WAREHOUSE, & UTILITIES	107.9	105.8	109.7	2.1	-1.8
Utilities	11.3	11.2	11.5	0.1	-0.2
INFORMATION	49.1	49.1	49.8	0.0	-0.7
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	158.7	157.8	159.2	0.9	-0.5
Finance and Insurance	130.5	130.2	131.1	0.3	-0.6
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	28.2	27.6	28.1	0.6	0.1
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	265.3	263.3	260.8	2.0	4.5
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	89.9	91.6	90.1	-1.7	-0.2
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	41.3	41.2	41.1	0.1	0.2
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	134.1	130.5	129.6	3.6	4.5
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	397	395	382.6	2.0	14.4
Educational Services	55.5	55	48.2	0.5	7.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	341.5	340	334.4	1.5	7.1
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	267.7	258.7	260.7	9.0	7.0
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	36.9	32.4	37	4.5	-0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	230.8	226.3	223.7	4.5	7.1
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin	136.4	136	136.4	0.4	0.0
GOVERNMENT	422.5	424.5	423.7	-2.0	-1.2
Federal Government	29	29	29.2	0.0	-0.2
State Government	107.6	108.9	104.7	-1.3	2.9
Local Government	285.9	286.6	289.8	-0.7	-3.9
PERSONS INVOLVED IN L-M DISPUTES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(1) Includes L-M Disputes					
	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES				
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3075.9	3079.6	3040.8	-3.7	35.1
UNEMPLOYMENT	143.9	147.2	143.6	-3.3	0.3
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.7	4.8	4.7	-0.1	0.0
EMPLOYMENT	2931.9	2932.4	2897.2	-0.5	34.7

*Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section, Bureau of Workforce Information